4. The receipt of this letter may kindly be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,

S/d-

(Sudhir Shrivastava)
Director

Copy to: Shri B.S. Sharma, Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India, Central Office, Mumbai for information.

Strengthening of the financial system

*62. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA has offered support to strengthen and expand India's financial system;

(b) if so, whether any dialogue has been initiated to reach agreement on the issue;

(c) if so, whether developing Mumbai into an International Finance Centre (IFC) forms part of the agenda; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps, in addition to IFC, that are envisaged to be taken up with USA?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) In the meeting of Indo-US Financial and Economic Forum, 2007 held in New Delhi on 30-31st October, 2007, US side has offered that it may cooperate with Indian side on sharing its experience in providing financial education and awareness in the country so that the public policy on financial education and awareness in India could be strengthened.

(c) and (d) In the Infrastructure Investment Conference held at Mumbai on 29th October, 2007, the US Treasury Secretary articulated the importance of development of Mumbai as International Financial Centre. However, in the Government-to-Government dialogue during Indo-US Financial and Economic Forum, 2007, the discussion on MIFC did not form part of the agenda.

†Increase in prices of common consumer goods

†*63. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the recently published report by the Price Monitoring Cell of the concerned department of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs indicating therein that the prices of fifteen common consumer goods of daily use have increased by 25 per cent during the last one year only;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the names of the consumer goods about which study has been conducted and reported in the said publication?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.